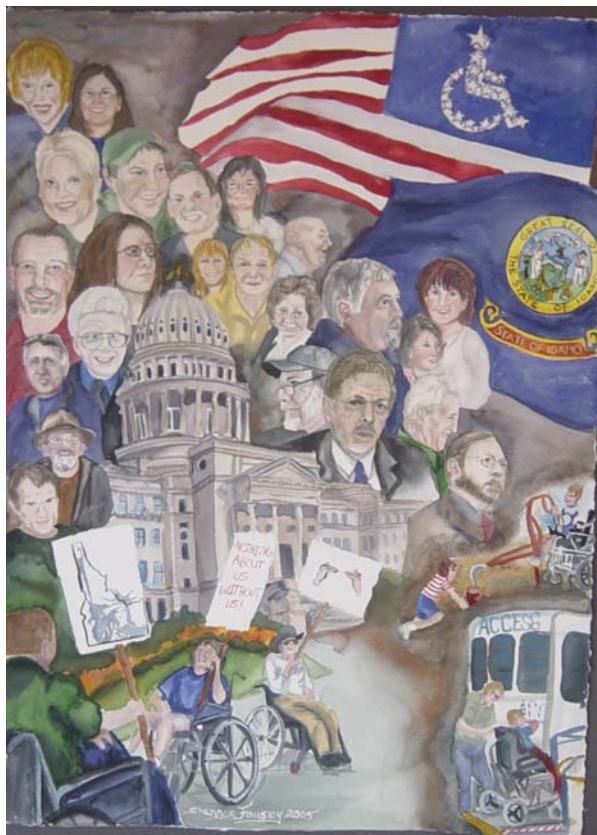


Annual Report  
State Fiscal Year 2005  
July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

Dismantling barriers affecting people with disabilities.



Commemorative watercolor in honor of Idahoans who actively advocate on behalf of people with disabilities presented to Kelly Buckland, Recipient of the Hewlett Packard 2005 Distinguished Leadership in Human Rights Award

‘Independent Living is a philosophy and a movement of people with disabilities who work for self-determination, equal opportunities and self-respect. Independent Living does not mean that we want to do everything by ourselves, do not need anybody, or that we want to live in isolation.

Independent Living means that we demand the same control in our everyday lives that our non-disabled brothers and sisters, neighbors, and friends take for granted. We want to grow up in our families, go to the neighborhood school, use the same bus as our neighbors, work in jobs that are in line with our education and abilities, and start families of our own.

Just as everybody else, we need to be in charge of our lives, and think and speak for ourselves. To this end we need to support and learn from each other, organize ourselves, and work for changes that lead to the legal protection of our human and civil rights.’

*Adolf Ratzka, Ph.D.*, Director,  
Institute on Independent Living  
Stockholm, Sweden

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(quote from the Cal SILC 2003 Annual Report)

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **The SILC**

Council Members

State Independent Living Council

SILC Responsibilities

Membership Guidelines

Legislation

2006 Legislative Priorities

SILC 2005 Activities

SFY 2005 SILC Budget

Program Update

### **Idaho Centers for Independent Living**

Overview

Directory

### **Acronym Glossary**

Frequently Used Terms

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*This report is available in alternative format  
upon request and can be viewed on our website*

## **Council Members**

Roger Howard, Chair, Boise  
CIL Representative, LINC

Todd DeVries, Vice-Chair, Idaho Falls  
Region VI, Person with a Disability

Jacob Anderson, Boise  
Youth Representative

Dana Ard, Boise  
Ex-Officio, ICBVI

**\*\*Bobby Ball, Boise**  
Service Provider, ADA Task Force

Lois Bauer, Boise  
Ex-Officio, ICOA

Jean Coil, Orofino  
Region II, Person with a Disability

Sue Cook, Boise  
Ex-Officio, IDVR

Sandra Dressel, Burley  
CIL Representative, LIFE, Inc.

**\*\*Cheryl Duncan, Pocatello**  
Region V, Person with a Disability

**\*\*Barney Franklin, Nampa**  
Advocate

**\*Noll Garcia, Boise**  
Member-At-Large

Candy Harris, Caldwell  
Service Provider

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Diane Helton, Boise  
Ex-Officio, IDHW

Dorothy Hill, Buhl  
Region IV, Person with a Disability

Jacque Hyatt, Boise  
Ex-Officio, SDOE, Special Education

Kristi Laney, Coeur d'Alene  
Region I, Person with a Disability

Mark Leeper, Moscow  
CIL Representative, DAC-NW

\*\*David Miles, Lapwai  
121 Project Director

Ron Moran, Nampa  
Region VII, Person with a Disability

\*\*\*Diane Strunk, Moscow  
Advocate

- \* Indicates first term expirations that occurred in SFY 2005
- \*\* Indicates second term expirations that occurred in SFY 2005
- \*\*\* Indicates Resignations that occurred in SFY 2005

Staff:

Kelly Buckland, Executive Director  
Aimee Moran, Resource Development Specialist  
Ginny Pollock, Administrative Assistant  
Mary McKercher, Administrative Assistant

## **The State Independent Living Council**

The history of independent living stems from a philosophy that states that people with all types of disabilities should have the same civil rights and control over their own lives as people without disabilities.

The independent living movement involves shifting societal attitudes about people with disabilities away from a patronizing, pitying medical model towards empowerment, independence, home- and community based services, and integration as fully contributing, valued members of society.

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 were signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 1992, and required the establishment of State Independent Living Councils (SILC's). The Idaho SILC was created by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993 and was given autonomy from other state agencies with HB711 in 2004. Since its inception, the Idaho SILC has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community –based. The SILC is known nationwide as an innovative leader in the independent living movement.

The SILC provides leadership development opportunities to empower grassroots advocates, who in turn, developed systemic changes in public policy to positively impact people with disabilities. The SILC supports training and education for people with disabilities, businesses, legislators and others involved in public policy development.

### **SILC Responsibilities**

The SILC must fulfill the following objectives:

- √ Develop, sign and submit, in conjunction with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. It must monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.

- √ Support the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.

√ Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, and work to expand and improve IL services.

## **Membership Guidelines**

The SILC is comprised of twenty-three members appointed by the Governor. These individuals must represent a broad range of disabilities and be knowledgeable about CILs and independent living services. A majority of the Council's members (at least 51 percent) must be people with disabilities who are not employed by the state or a CIL. A wide range of disabilities are represented by SILC members: mobility impairments, blindness and visual impairments, hearing impairments, mental illness and cognitive impairments. The Council also seeks representation of un-served and under-served populations

## **Membership Categories**

People with disabilities

Parents of people with disabilities

Advocates for people with disabilities

Center for Independent Living representatives

Service Providers

Youth Representative

The Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for Native Americans

Member-At-Large

Ex-officio (non-voting) members, including representatives from IDVR, ICBVI, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), the State Department of Education (SDOE) Special Education and the Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA)

## **Nomination/Selection Process**

Council members are appointed to three-year terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms. If, however, a member is appointed to fill an un-expired term, the individual may serve the remainder of that term plus two additional terms. Nomination forms are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selection of a nominee is based upon one's knowledge of the independent living philosophy along with the desire and ability to serve. Full participation is crucial to the success of the Council, so candidates must carefully consider their time commitment and other factors when submitting a nomination form. When a vacancy occurs in a specific

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category, nominations are reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee then makes a recommendation to the full Council regarding its selection. The Governor must approve all appointments.

### **2006 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Medicaid Buy-In  
Idaho Prescription Drug Program  
Health Insurance / Mental Health Parity  
Sovereign Immunity

### **2005 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES**

Adding Disability to the Protected Classes within the Idaho Human Rights Laws

### **LEGISLATION SUPPORTED DURING THE 2005 SESSION**

The Self-Determination Waiver Resolution

### **LEGISLATION OPPOSED DURING THE 2005 SESSION**

Students/Disruption of the Education Process  
No Child Left Behind Act Exemption

### **MAJOR LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY THE SILC SINCE 1995**

Accessible Parking  
Assistance Dog Legislation  
Idaho Building Code Act  
Idaho Child Custody Laws  
State Sales Tax Exemption for CILs  
Tax Credit for CIL Donations  
Vehicle Fueling Assistance  
Fish and Game License, Disabled Persons

**SILC works to make life better for all Idahoans**



## **MEDICAID BUY-IN**

SILC Sponsored: Medicaid Buy-In would help transition people with disabilities to work by permitting them to “buy into” Medicaid while working. For people with disabilities currently on Medicaid there is no incentive to work more than part-time since if they earn even one dollar too much, they lose their Medicaid coverage. That coverage pays for the supports and services that people with disabilities need to go to work. With Medicaid Buy-In, when the eligible person goes to work, they pay a premium based on a sliding scale enabling them to retain their coverage. The program encourages self-sufficiency and independence instead of trapping people in dependence and poverty.

## **SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**

SILC sponsored: Just as Idaho has waived sovereign immunity to permit tort claims, this bill would waive sovereign immunity for the single, limited purpose of allowing claims against the state under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). If enacted, it will place the same duties of non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation on the state as every other governmental and private employer and provide people with disabilities the same legal protections and remedies in dealing with the state as exists with every other level of government or private business.

## **IDAHO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

This legislation would utilize drug manufacturer rebates and pharmacy discounts to create a prescription drug assistance program for people who do not have medical insurance and who do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid and are below 250% of the federal poverty level. People eligible for this program would still be required to pay for prescription drugs but at a significantly reduced rate. Providing greater access to prescription drugs will improve the quality of health care.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL HEALTH PARTIY**

This legislation proposes to create a pilot program to allow the state to establish the real costs and benefits of including mental health coverage in group health insurance coverage. The anticipated results of the pilot program would be a strengthening of insurance coverage for mental illness.

SILC members and the Executive Director currently participate on several committees to develop and administer policy and programs important to the disability community. Examples of committees:

Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities  
A Better Way Coalition/Advanced Care Planning

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SILC Student Transition Team  
Blackfoot Student Transition Team  
Interagency Council on Transition  
National Council on Independent Living  
Assoc. of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Children's Special Health Program  
National Center for Accessible Transportation  
Aging & Disability Resource Centers Committee  
Idaho Homelessness Policy Council  
Idahoans with Disabilities Act Task Force  
State Rehabilitation Council

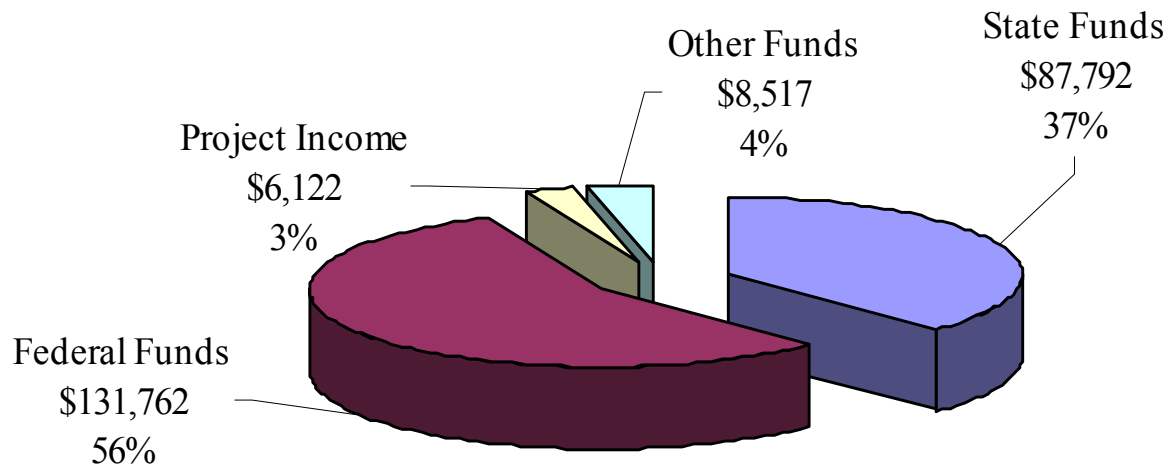
In 2005 the SILC hired a Resource Development Specialist to seek funding on behalf of Independent Living in Idaho, as well as to assist with program development.

The SILC's Student Transition Team has worked with the Blackfoot Student Transition Team to develop a comprehensive transition program for secondary school students to include the philosophy of independent living and learning their civil rights under the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

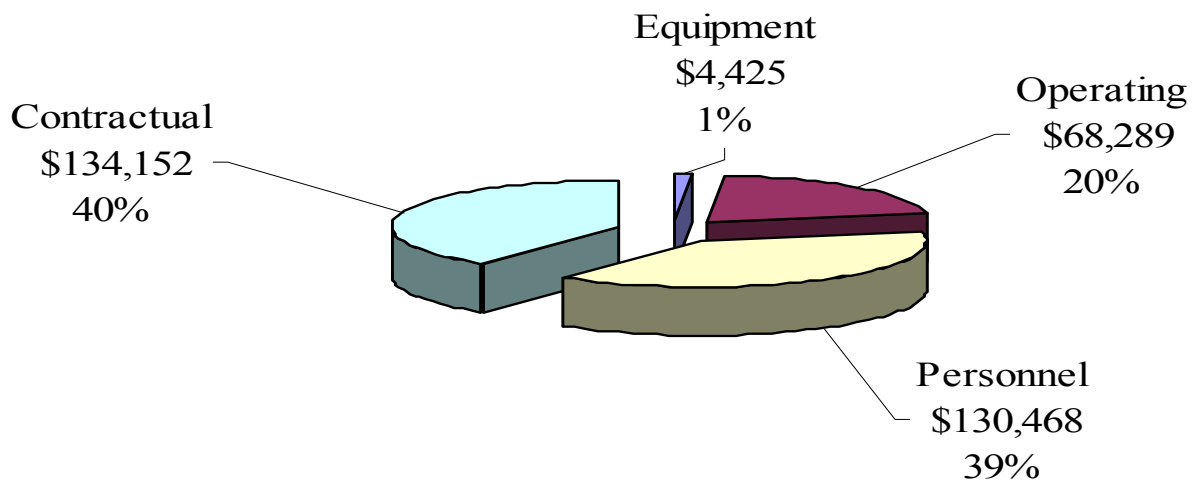
***“The SILC's mission is to advocate for and achieve independence, choice, self-determination, equal access and equal opportunity for Idahoans with disabilities through systems change, policy involvement and public education.”***

— July 2004

**2005 SFY OPERATING INCOME \$234,193**



**2005 SFY OPERATING EXPENDITURES \$203,457**



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

The SILC provides three mass mailings annually and all are during the legislative session. The purpose of the Legislative Updates is to inform our consumers on all pieces of legislation that directly affect the liberties of Idahoans with disabilities. Included in each of the three Updates is an informational page on topics requested by our consumers. Consumers are voluntarily added to our mailing list by mailing in a "Reply Card" obtained from the Transportation Department when applying for an accessible placard or license plate. Consumers may request to be removed from the list at any time.

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY**

The SILC commissioned a statewide survey to update the needs assessment completed in 1995. The survey, coordinated by the Social Science Research Center of the Boise State University, clearly shows an increase in the disability population. The data for the survey, collected December 12, 2004 through January 4, 2005, will be utilized by the SILC, the centers for independent living, the Idaho Task Force on the ADA, and all other entities looking for current and reliable statistics. A survey sample of 2,749 respondents completed the "screener" portion of the survey, which was used to determine if the respondent or anyone in their household had a disability according to ADA guidelines. The survey sample yielded 1,216 respondents (over 44%) who indicated that one or more members of their household had a disability. The complete survey can be viewed on our website.

## **“We the People” Statewide Independent Living Conference**

The Statewide Independent Living Conference, “We the People”, took place in Boise from January 31 to February 3, 2005. A huge success, the conference brought together 200 people with disabilities, advocates for people with disabilities, family members, service providers and state agency personnel to learn more about the independent living movement, self-advocacy, and legislative advocacy. The event ended with an inspiring march to the Capitol and a rally on the west Capitol steps. Over 100 participants were able to attend due to scholarships from our generous conference sponsors.



Rally at the Statehouse



General Session



Greg Smith



Oinkari Dancers



Sarah Triano

The SILC works closely with Idaho Centers for Independent Living (CILs). CILs are nonresidential, community based, cross-disability, private, nonprofit organizations that are designed and operated by individuals with disabilities.

Idaho CILs operate on a strict philosophy based on consumer control.

Idaho's CILs provide the following services at little or no cost to consumers.

**Independent Living Goals** – Centers facilitate goals selected by individuals who seek assistance.

**Community Options** – Centers work to increase options so consumers may achieve their own independent living goals.

**Individual and Systems Advocacy** – Centers provide assistance with individual human rights issues as well as creating systems change to impact all people with disabilities. CILs encourage participation in leadership training, grassroots legislative activity and service planning.

**Information and Referral Services** – Centers provide information on specific disability-related topics and referral to specific community agencies and service providers.

**Independent Living Skills Training** – Centers provide training services which offer individuals the opportunity to learn and practice basic life skills necessary to live independently in the community. Community education focuses on integrating people with disabilities into community activities.

**Peer Support Services** – An individual with a disability mentors, counsels or acts as a role model to another individual with a disability to explore options, make informed choices and achieve control over his/her life.

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(DAC-NW)**

**Mark Leeper, Executive Director**  
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**LIVING INDEPENDENTLY FOR EVERYONE (LIFE)**  
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**Glossary of Acronyms**

- ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act
- CID** Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- CIL** Center for Independent Living, which provides cross-disability services to empower and enable people to live independently
- DAC** Disability Action Center Northwest, the Idaho CIL with a main office in Moscow and a satellites in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston
- FFY** Federal Fiscal Year  
(October 1 through September 30)
- LINC** Living Independence Network Corp., the Idaho CIL with a main office in Boise and satellites in Caldwell and Twin Falls
- ICBVI** Idaho State Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- IDHW** Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- IDVR** Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- IL** Independent Living



**LIFE** Living Independently For Everyone, the Idaho CIL with a main office in Pocatello, and five satellites in eastern Idaho

**SFY** State Fiscal Year (July 1 through June 30)

**SILC** State Independent Living Council

**SPIL** State Plan for Independent Living



**SILC Council**



**Kelly Buckland, SILC Executive Director, 1995-present**

**“We the People”  
Statewide Independent Living Conference**



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“We the People” Rally at the Capitol steps.  
Statewide Independent Living Conference 2005

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